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Letter dated 1 April 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to enclose herewith a statement by the Chair of the Commission of the African Union, Nkosazana D. Zuma, on the signing by the Government of the Republic of the Sudan of a road map agreement for inclusive national dialogue in the Sudan.

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex would be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Omer Dahab Fadl Mohamed
Permanent Representative

16-05323 (E) 040416

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Annex to the letter dated 1 April 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

The African Union welcomes the signing by the Government of the Sudan of a road map agreement for inclusive national dialogue in the Sudan

Addis Ababa, 23 March 2016

The Chair of the Commission of the African Union, Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, welcomes the signing by the Government of the Sudan of a road map agreement developed during strategic consultations held from 18 to 21 March 2016 in Addis Ababa under the auspices of the African Union High-level Implementation Panel for the Sudan and South Sudan. The strategic consultations brought together the Government of the Sudan, the Justice and Equality Movement, the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army-Minni Minawi, the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North and the National Umma Party.

The Chair notes that the road map agreement represents an important milestone in determining a practicable way forward towards ensuring progress in the negotiations on the cessation of hostilities and a permanent ceasefire in the Two Areas and Darfur and in ensuring an inclusive national dialogue in the Sudan as a basis for lasting peace in the country.

With regard to the negotiations on the Two Areas and Darfur, the road map agreement stresses that the agreements to end the conflicts should be synchronized with agreements on relevant political matters and envisages the establishment of a joint committee/committees to ensure the necessary synchronization between the implementation of a permanent ceasefire and security arrangements and the conclusion of the relevant political processes. With regard to the national dialogue, the road map agreement acknowledges that the national dialogue process currently under way in the Sudan is not sufficiently inclusive, given that it does not include key opposition political parties and armed movements of the Sudan. Accordingly, the road map agreement states that efforts should be made to achieve inclusivity in the national dialogue, which the parties agree is vital.

The Chair of the Commission commends the Government of the Sudan for signing the road map agreement, as part of efforts aimed at addressing the numerous challenges facing the Sudan. The Chair notes that the other parties to the strategic consultations did not sign the road map agreement. She calls upon those parties to urgently sign the agreement, by 28 March at the latest, in order to give impetus to a process that shall lead to the settlement of the Sudan's multiple conflicts. She called upon the parties who have not yet signed the agreement to desist from making any unhelpful public statements, so as to avoid jeopardizing what they have committed to achieving, namely, lasting peace in the Sudan.

The Chair further welcomes the meeting facilitated by the African Union High-level Implementation Panel for the Sudan and South Sudan, between the National Dialogue Steering Committee and the Future Forces for Change on 22 March 2016 in Khartoum. The meeting presented an important opportunity for improving the working relationship between the National Dialogue Steering

Committee and the opposition parties based in the Sudan. The Chair notes with appreciation that the meetings resulted in agreement between the Government and the Future Forces for Change to establish a subcommittee tasked with developing an agenda and coordinating future joint work.

The Chair of the Commission wishes to commend the Chair of the African Union High-level Implementation Panel for the Sudan and South Sudan, former President Thabo Mbeki, and a member of the Panel, General Abdulsalami Abubakar, as well as the support staff, for their outstanding commitment and support beyond the call of duty to the Sudanese parties in their quest for lasting peace, security, reconciliation and democracy in their country.

The Chair of the Commission wishes to underscore that the African Union remains steadfast in supporting the Sudanese parties, guided by the full understanding that the Sudanese parties have the capacity and the political will to address all challenges that continue to face their people.